

STATINTL

Fulbright Sees Gain in Soviet Ties

Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) said after a briefing by a top State Department Russian expert yesterday that U.S.-Soviet relations are continuing to show "a gradual improvement."

Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that Premier Alexei Kosygin and Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev were associates of ousted Premier Khrushchev and that their rise to power reflected "no major change in Soviet policy."

Fulbright, talking with reporters after the Committee questioned Ambassador-at-Large Llewellyn Thompson, a former Ambassador to Moscow, emphasized he was expressing his own personal views on the basis of the briefing.